

The Rule of Thumb:

**A Five Year Overview of
Domestic Violence in
South Carolina**

Methodology

- The report used crime incident report data from SLED.
- The time frame was 2005 through 2009.
- Domestic violence included homicide, sexual violence, robbery, aggravated and simple assault and intimidation where the victim and offender were/had been married, were related or dating.

Domestic Violence as a Factor in Overall Violence

- 24.9% of homicides
- 31.9% of sexual violence
- 1.6% of robberies
- 36.1% of aggravated assaults
- 51.1% of simple assaults
- 30.2% of intimidation
- 40.8% of all the above offenses combined

Domestic Violence Offenses

- Simple assault was the most frequently reported domestic violence offense.
- There were 442 domestic homicides from 2005 through 2009.
- There were 6,476 acts of domestic sexual violence during those five years.
- Vandalism was the non-violent offense most often reported along with domestic violence.

Domestic Violence – Time of Day

- Domestic violence was most often reported during the evening hours.
- More domestic violence was reported on Saturday than any other day.
- As a result, Saturday evenings were the prime time for domestic violence.

Victims of Domestic Violence

- Women and girls made up 73.9% of domestic violence victims.
- The highest victimization rate was among the 18 to 24 year old age group.
- Young adults from 18 to 34 accounted for 48.8% of domestic violence victims.

Victims of Domestic Violence

- 53.3% of domestic violence victims were White, however the victimization rate for Non-Whites was 70% higher than for Whites.
- 2.5% of domestic violence victims were Hispanic. The victimization rate among Hispanics was 37.7% lower than the rate among Whites.

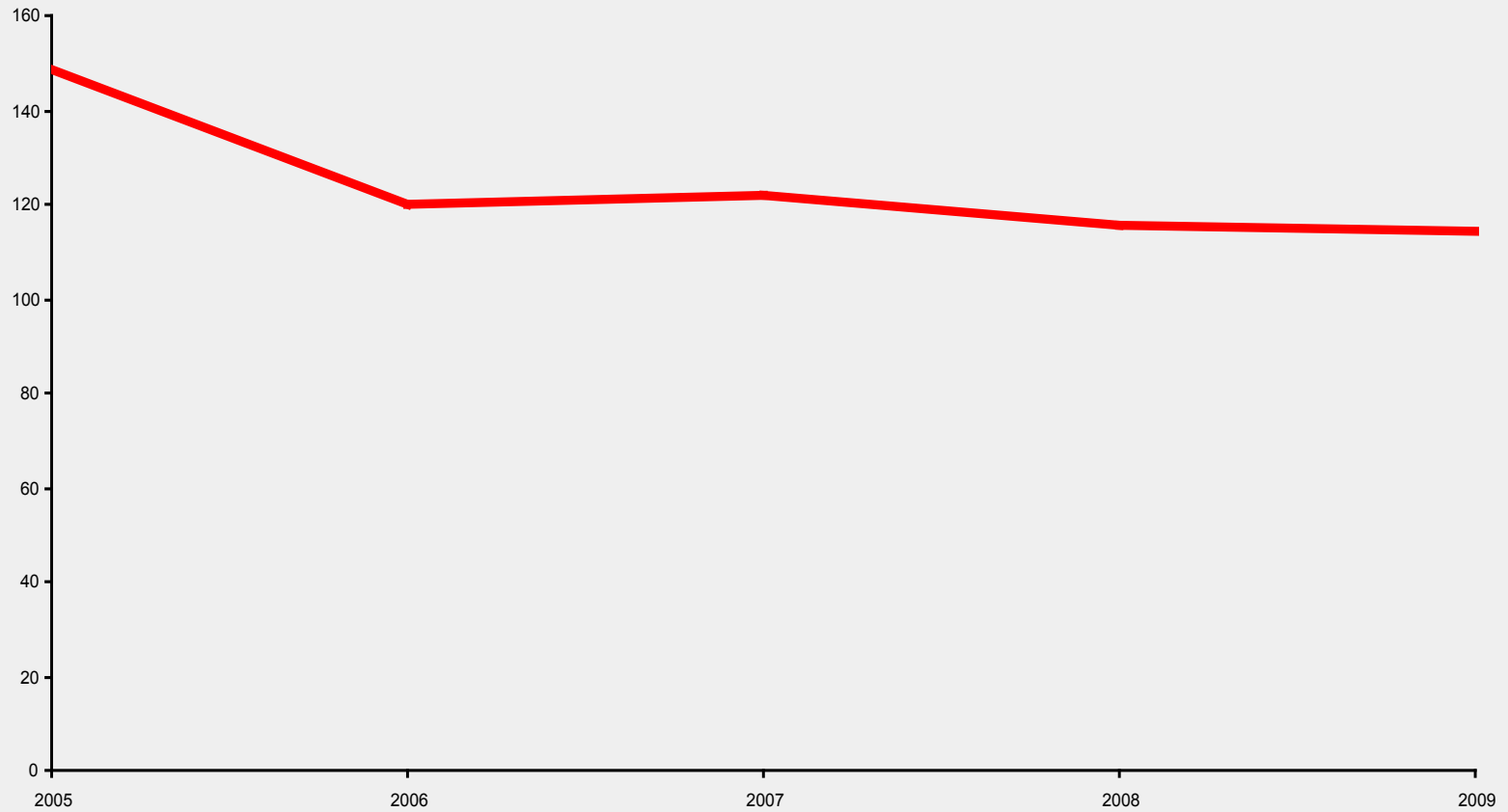
Victim/Offender Relationships

- Four types of domestic violence were included in this report: violence involving ex-spouses, family members, spouses and romantic partners.
- Romantic partners accounted for 35.9% of domestic violence victims, family members 32.4%, spouses 29.2% and ex-spouses 2.5%.

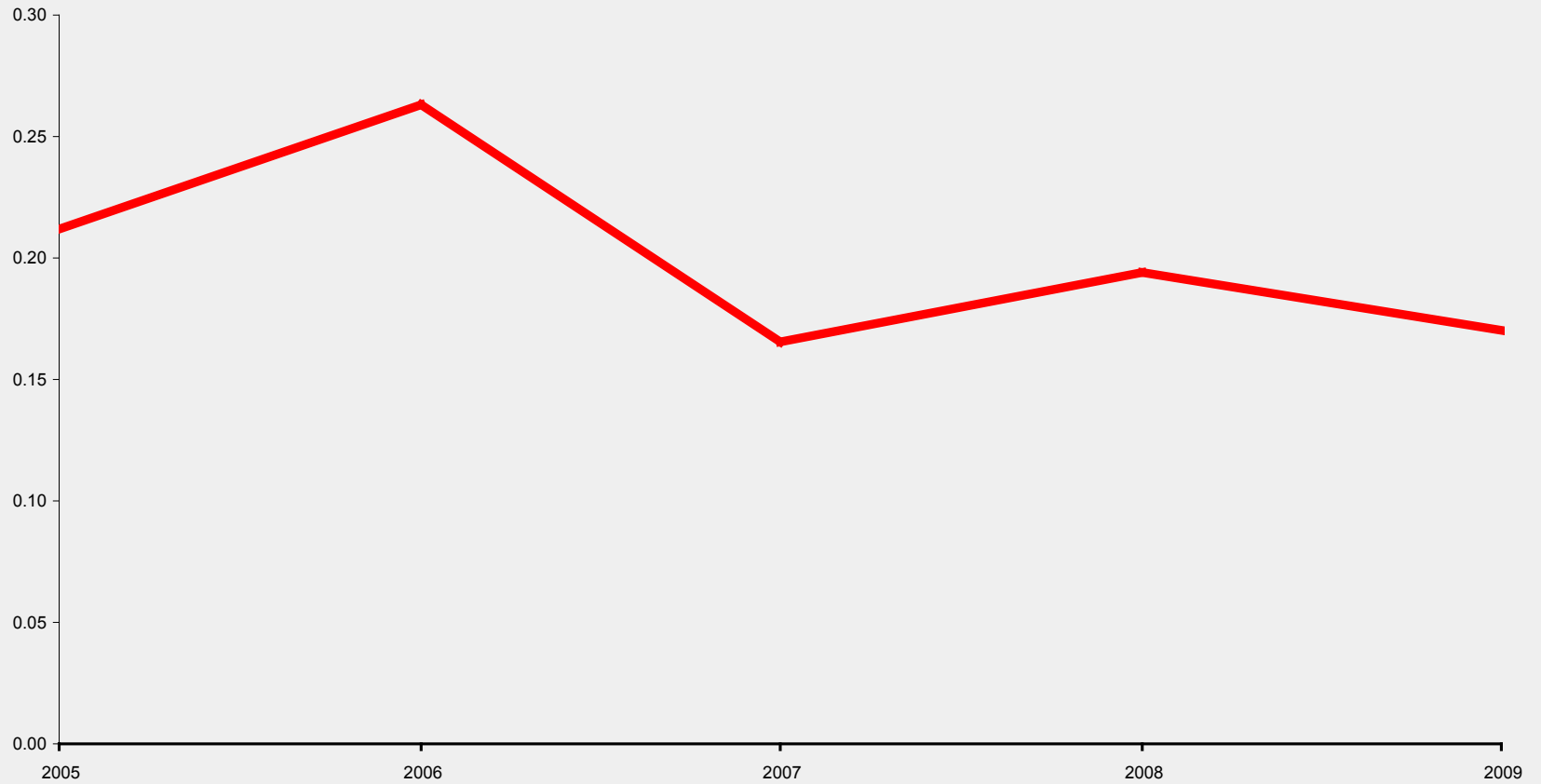
Victim/Offender Relationships

- Wives were 79.8% of the victims in spousal violence.
- Ex-wives were 78.8% of the victims in domestic violence among ex-spouses.
- Other family members such as cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews made up 25.1% of family violence victims.
- Girlfriends were 82.2% of the domestic violence victims among romantic partners.

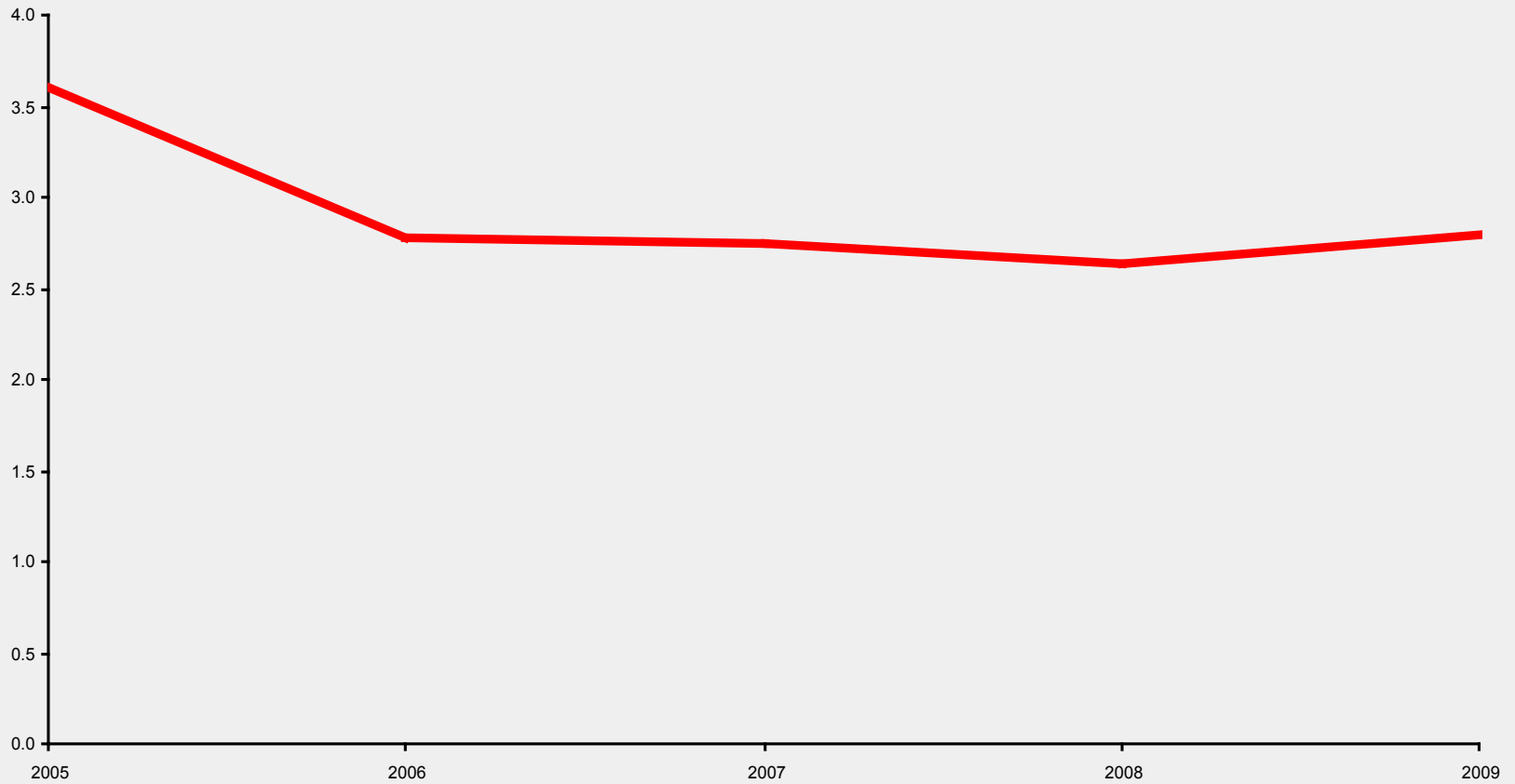
Domestic Violence Rate



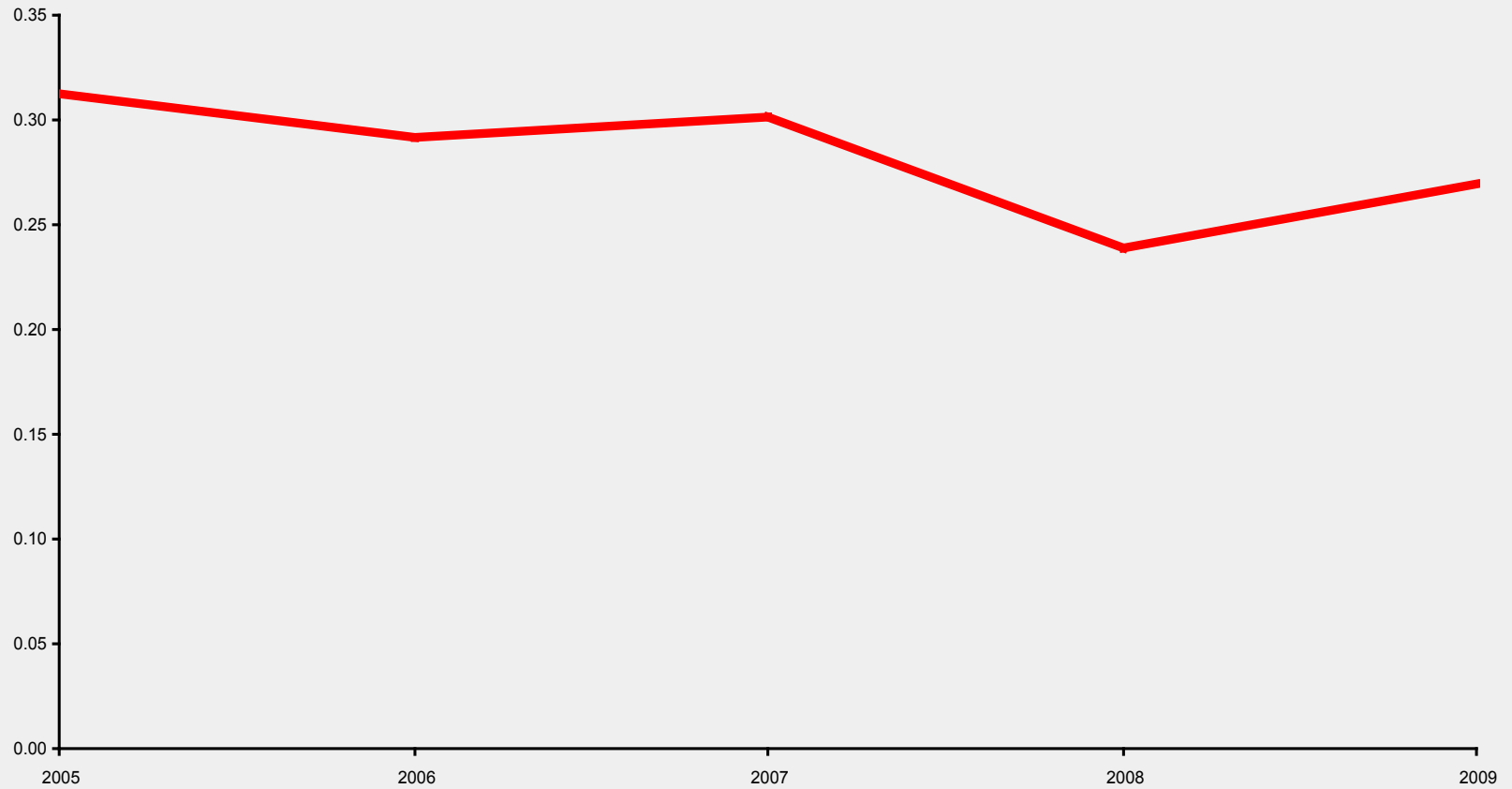
Domestic Homicide Rate



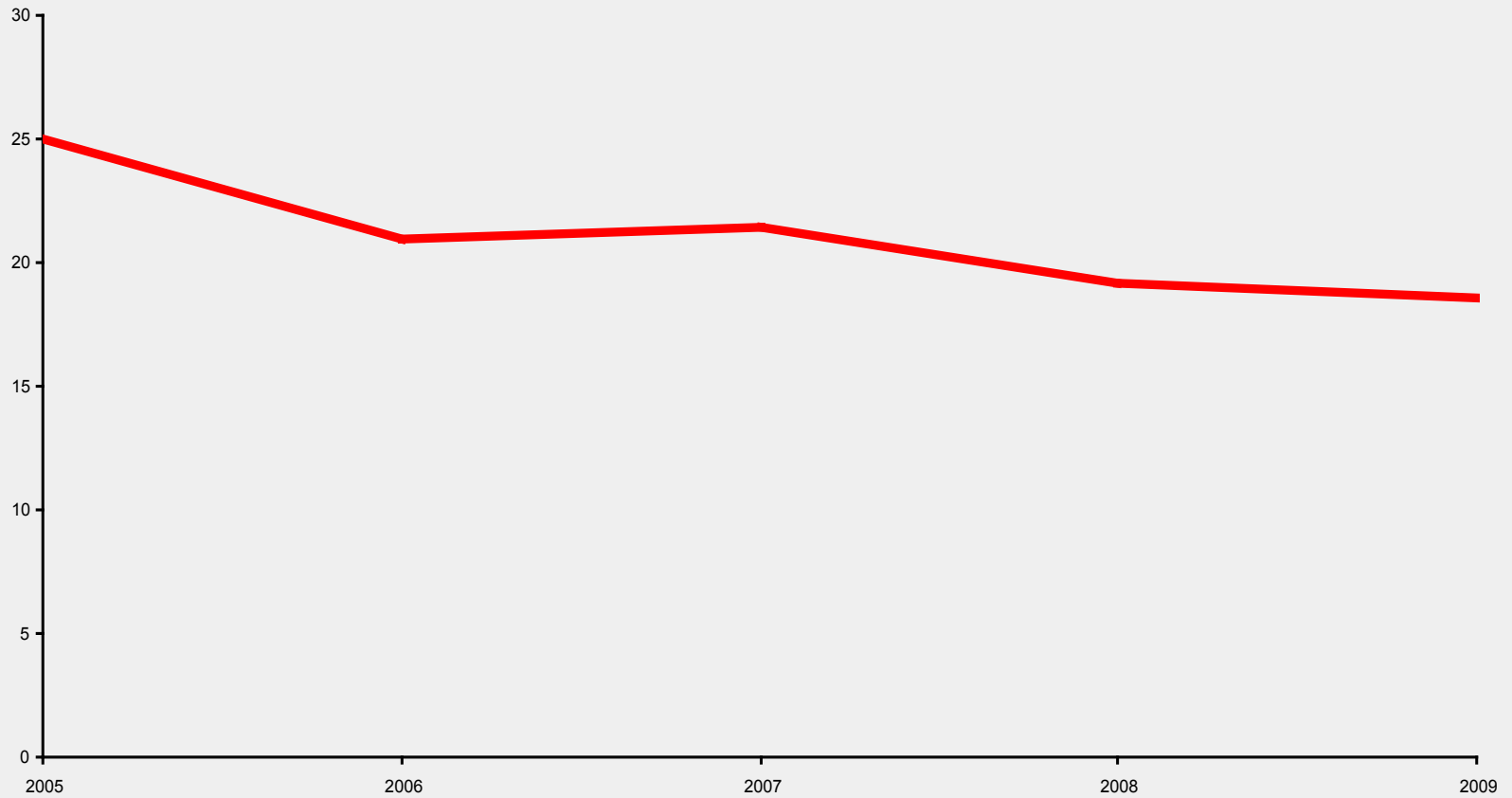
Domestic Sexual Violence Rate



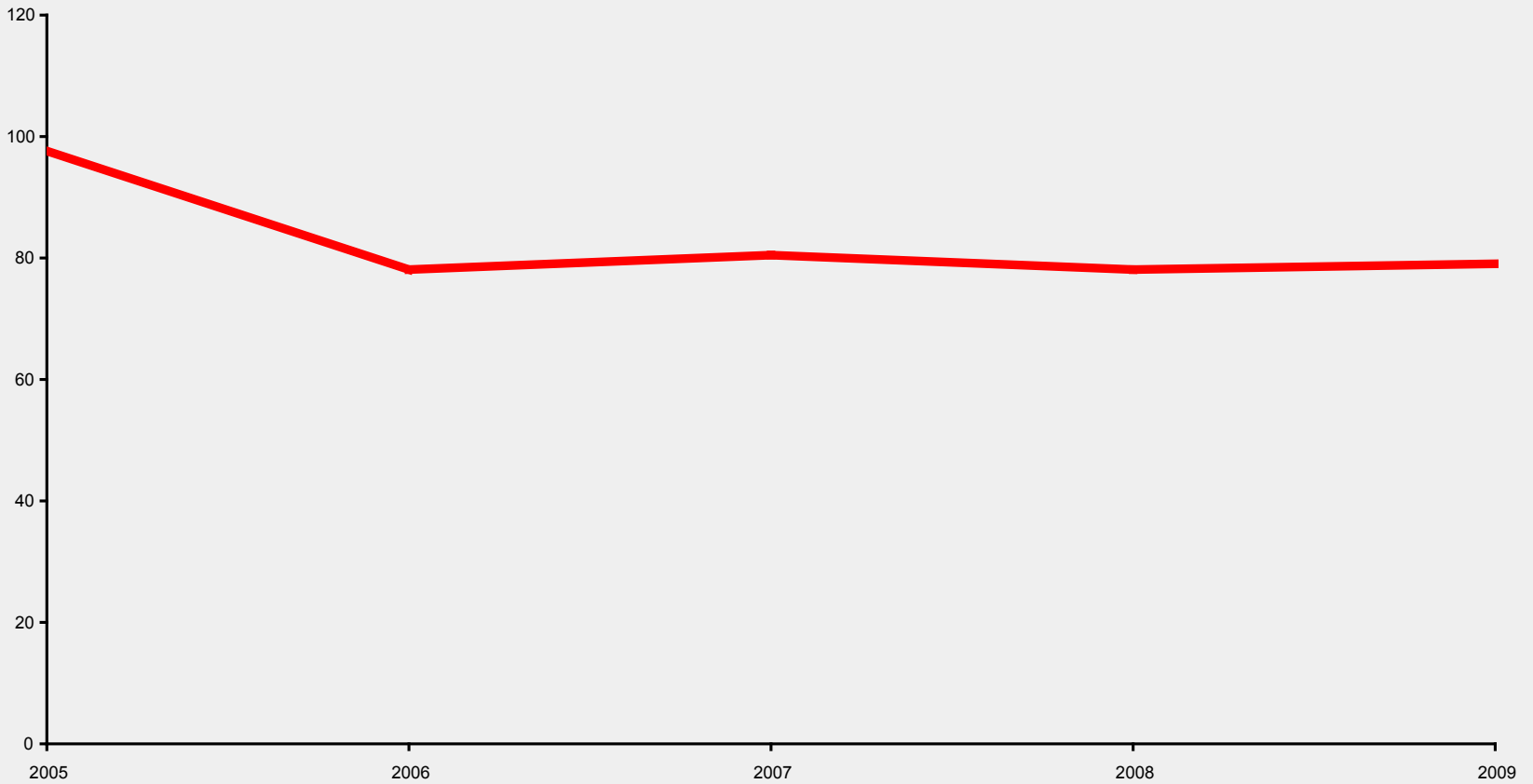
Domestic Robbery Rate



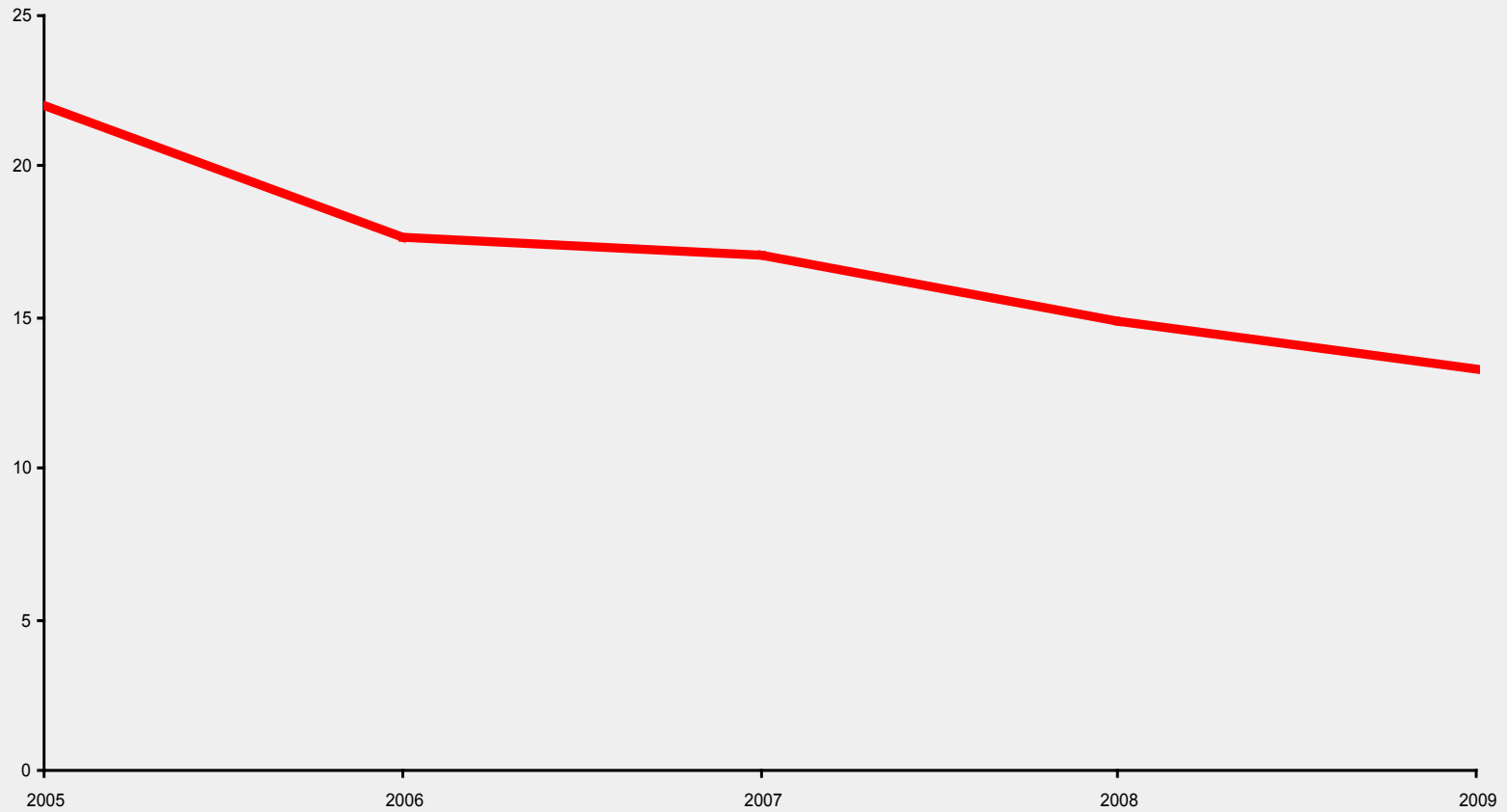
Domestic Aggravated Assault Rate



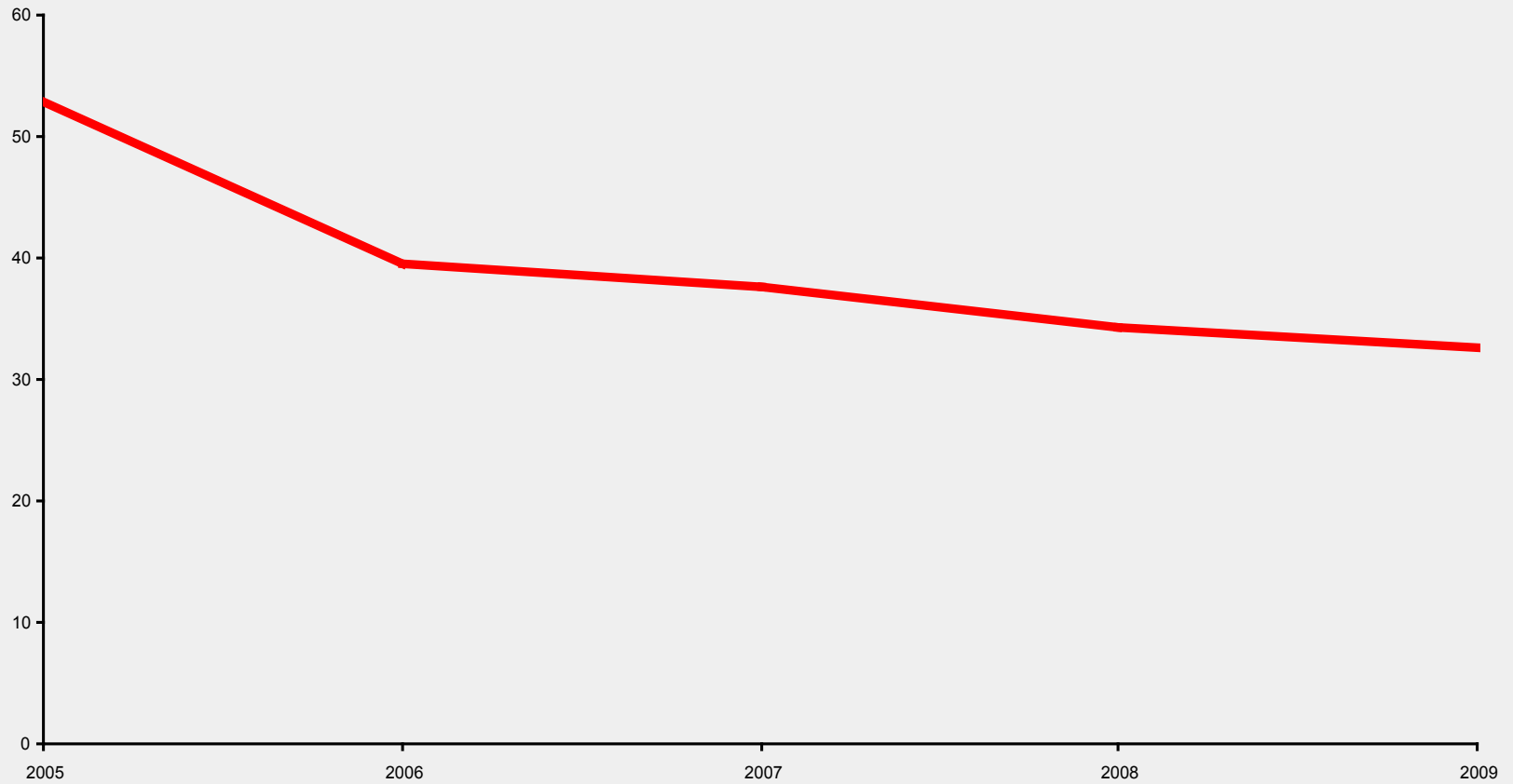
Domestic Simple Assault Rate



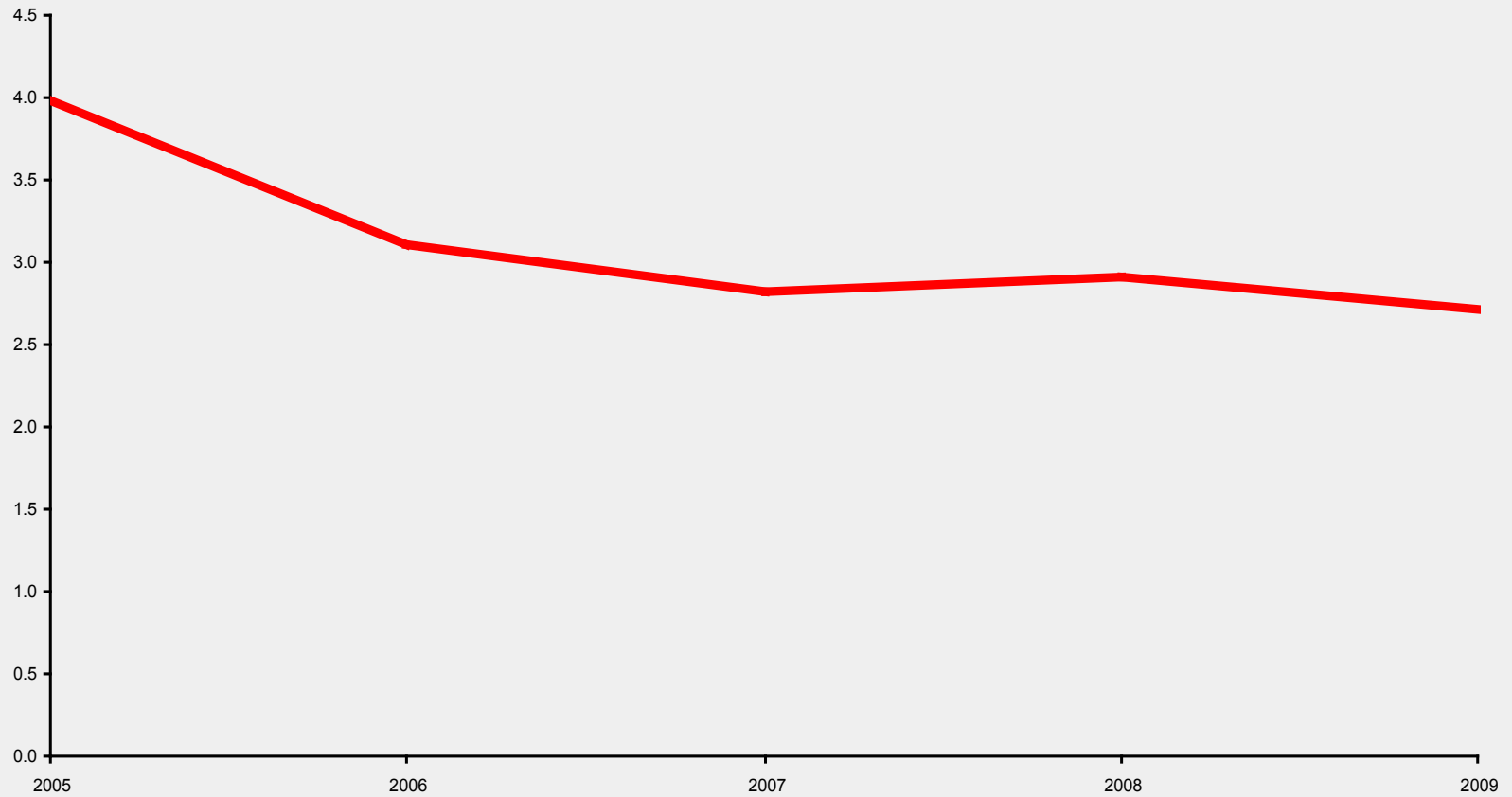
Domestic Intimidation Rate



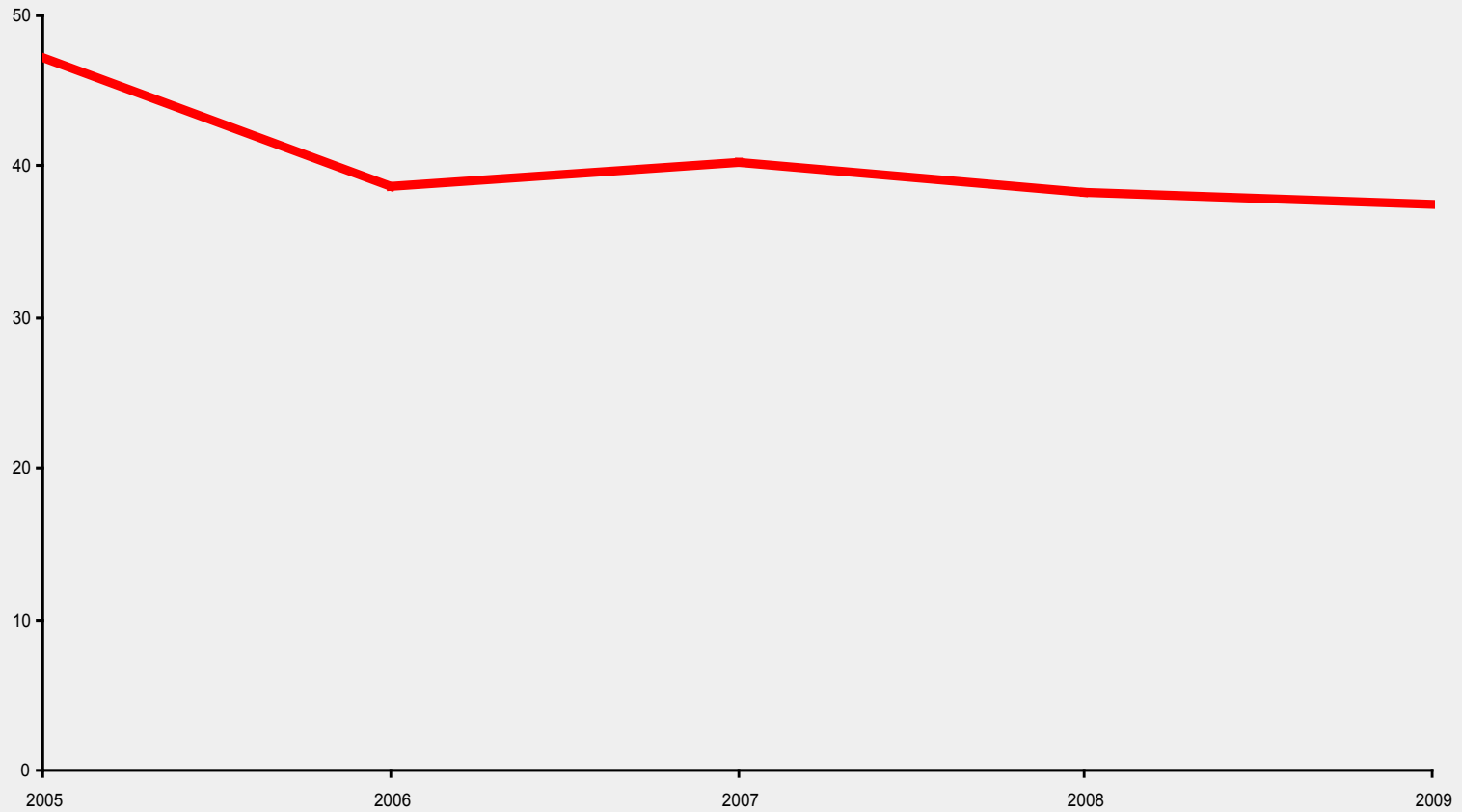
CDV Proxy Rate



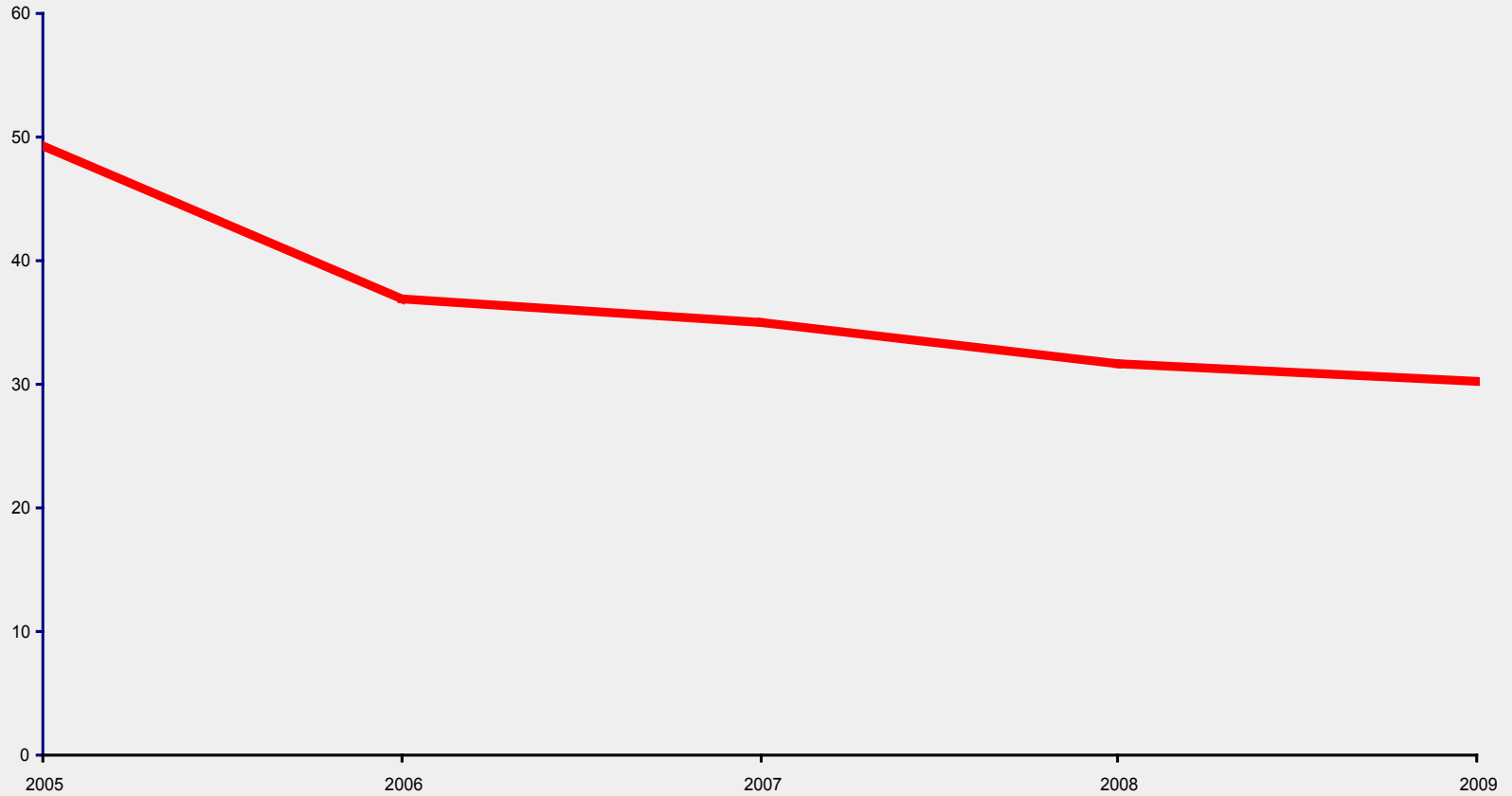
Ex-Spouse Violence Rate



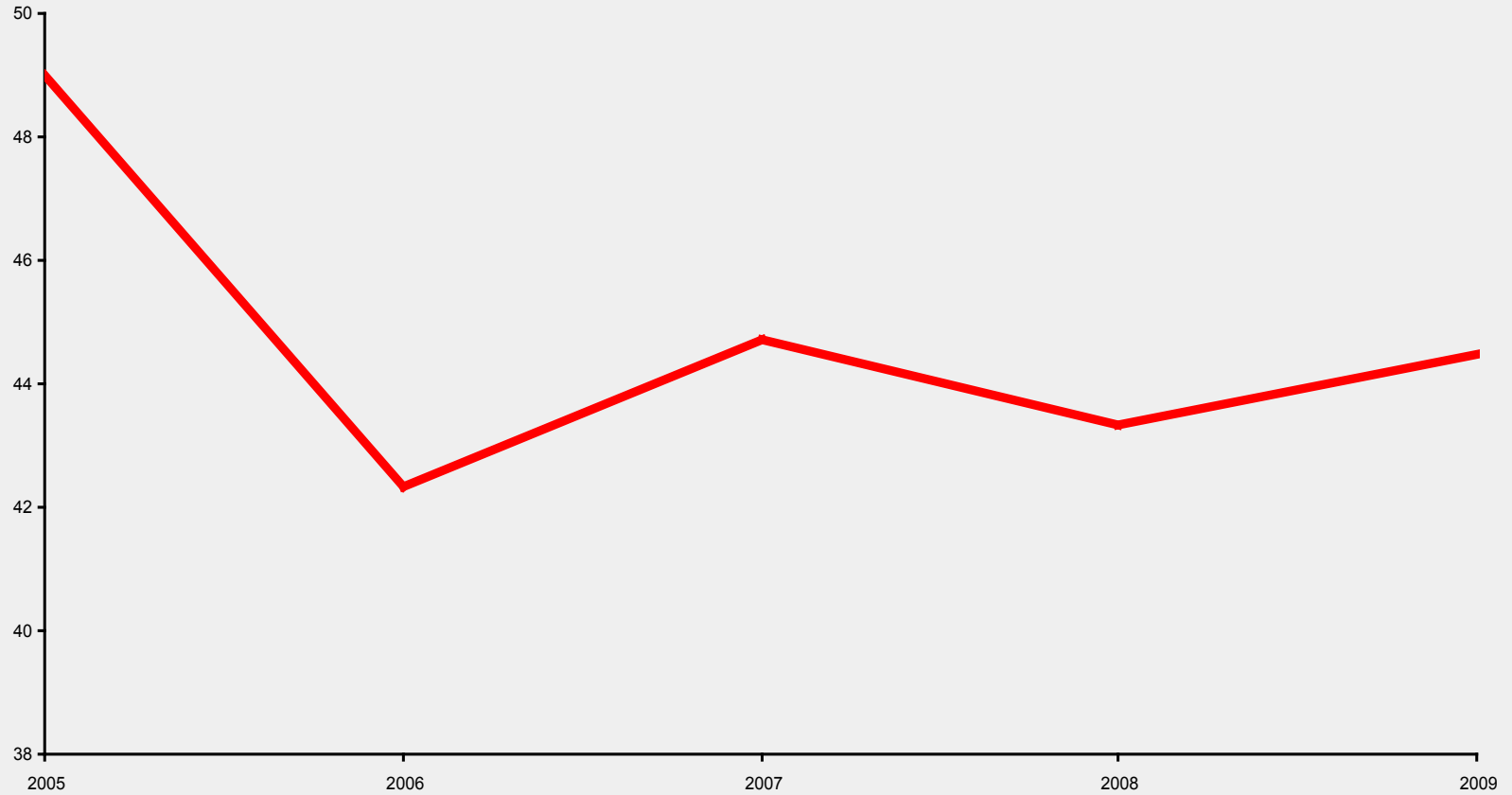
Family Violence Rate



Marital Violence Rate



Violence Rate – Romantic Partners



County Rankings - 2009

- Greenville County reported the most domestic violence victims, Chester County had the highest domestic violence rate.
- Greenville County reported seven domestic violence homicides, the most in the state.
- Greenville County reported the most domestic sexual violence victims, Chester County had the highest domestic sexual violence rate.

County Rankings - 2009

- Richland County ranked first in domestic aggravated assault victims, Dillon County had the highest rate.
- Greenville County reported the most domestic simple assault victims, Orangeburg County had the highest victimization rate.
- Horry County reported the most domestic intimidation victims, Marion County had the highest victimization rate.

County Information

For information about domestic violence in a specific county, please see the full report starting on page 95, with the counties following in alphabetical order. Each county has a three page profile consisting of domestic violence trend and victim information during the 2005 to 2009 time period.

QUESTIONS?

- The full report, *The Rule of Thumb: A Five Year Overview of Domestic Violence in South Carolina 2005 – 2009* is available online at:
<http://www.scdps.org/ojp/statistics.asp>
- You may also email questions to:
robertmcmanus@scdps.net